

LABOR CONVENTION OPENS AT ATLANTA

President Gompers, in Opening Address at 31st Annual Meeting Names "Injunction Judges," "Subservient Courts" and "McNamara Persecution" as Foes of Labor.

Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 13.—Denouncing as the foes of labor "subservient courts," "injunction judges," and the McNamara "persecution" in Los Angeles, President Samuel Gompers this afternoon delivered his annual address before the thirty-first annual convention of the American Federation of Labor. To desert partisan politics and join independently the fight for better working conditions was the remedy suggested.

Frank Morrison submitted his annual report showing that the federation now has 1,756,000 members, the greatest since its organization.

"The spirit of revolt and change is abroad in the land," said Gompers. "Voters are now demanding better reason for support of a particular candidate than his nomination by the party or his endorsement by some official or unofficial boss. The people who form the rank and file of political parties are more progressive than their leaders. They will no longer submit to the rule of evasion and false pretenses found in platforms, presidential messages and public addresses. Millions of intelligent men of labor, having passed beyond the

influence of campaign buncombe, have come to understand that the welfare of the people and promotion of the cause of labor are more important than any party candidacy or empty partisan success. The spirit of liberty cannot be stayed by kings, nor emperors, or even by presidents, nor by injunction and jail sentences.

"The people have had the sense and courage to strike off the shackles and to rebel against an autocratic and boss-owned judiciary."

Declaring that the recall, initiative and referendum are paramount issues, certain of adoption, Gompers said: "This semi-deification of the judiciary, this sanctimonious cant about 'mob rule,' some of which was in Taft's message vetoing the constitution of Arizona, is mere drivel."

The Gompers report was the main feature of the opening session, which was attended by delegates from every section of the country. There is every prospect that the convention will take some strong action in relation to the McNamara trial, the feeling among the delegates being intense.

President Gompers Refers to McNamara Case.

Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 13.—In his annual report President Sam Gompers made the following comment on the McNamara case:

"When, on October 2, 1910, the newspapers published accounts of a terrible disaster in Los Angeles, in which, by the burning of a part